

# CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT:

Women's Economic Empowerment  
and Growth in Low Income  
Countries: a global research  
Programme (2013-2018)



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## Report Summary

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Evidence that barriers to women's economic participation and productivity may be stifling opportunities for growth is strengthening. New knowledge derived from a multilateral research programme – Women's Economic Empowerment and Growth in Low Income Countries – will help to generate and inform policies that promote women's contribution to economic growth. Knowledge generation by academic, civil society and commercial collaborators will be accomplished using conventional research tools and deductive processes that do not present risks to climate or environment. Uptake of policies that progress growth through improved economic opportunities for women could harbour indirect risks of unwanted impacts on natural resources if not responsibly managed. By ensuring that WEEG policies and future programmes are formulated to embrace environment and climate issues in relation to growth, agricultural production and other enterprises that exploit natural resources should not be compromised.

*Note to readers: Climate and Environment Assessments are used to ensure that climate and environment risks and opportunities are considered as part of the process in developing new DFID Business Cases. The CEA presented here is in draft form, as submitted by Evidence on Demand to DFID for quality assurance and approval by a DFID Climate & Environment adviser.*



# SECTION 1

## Climate and Environment Appraisal;

**What is the likely impact (positive and negative) on climate change and environment for each feasible option?**

Option	Climate change and environment risks and impacts, Category (A, B, C, D)	Climate change and environment opportunities, Category (A, B, C, D)
1	C	C
2	C	C
3	C	C
4	C	C

Summary:

### *Climate change and Environmental Risks*

There are neither direct risks of adverse climate and environmental impacts arising from the co-funded programme nor any prospect that climate change could affect the success of the WEEG programme.

Provisional C&E assessments of risk and impacts: all four of the project options proposed in support of WEEG fall into category C. C&E opportunities are also assigned to category C.


### Direct climate and environment impacts

It is improbable that the options under consideration for the delivery of the Business Case will have any significant consequences for the environment or climate. Apart from Option 1, all are configured to deliver research, collate and disseminate new knowledge on WEEG in LICs using conventional tools. These interventions and processes are benign and would neither contribute directly to climate change or environmental degradation - nor be disrupted by climatic and environmental parameters, except for impacts of major natural hazards, seismic activity, tsunamis, floods etc on field research and other in-country activities such as desk based reviews and dissemination events.

### Indirect climate and environment impacts

Indirect risks of climate and environment impacts arising from the thematic programme activities and outputs are not anticipated. Increased uptake of gender-based policies that enhance production and productivity in the natural resources sector could result in unsustainable trade-offs between growth and the environment<sup>1</sup>. However, such indirect impacts would be downstream of the programme's outcomes (and, moreover, are manageable in sectors where evidence suggests that women have developed knowledge,

<sup>1</sup> Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005. Synthesis reports (6)  
<http://www.unep.org/maweb/en/Synthesis.aspx>



skills and coping strategies to diminish the challenges posed by crop and livestock intensification, biomass and water exploitation)<sup>2</sup>.

Climate change impacts can exacerbate gender inequality, most clearly illustrated by looking at gendered divisions of labour (i.e. gathering water, subsistence farming and household energy provision are primarily female-specific roles). Climate uncertainty will make such tasks, which are inextricably dependent on environmental conditions, increasingly challenging<sup>3</sup>. Similarly, women and girls are generally expected to care for the sick, particularly in times of disaster and environmental stress linked with climate change.<sup>4</sup>

Carbon/climate footprints (international and local travel<sup>5</sup>, procurement, the office environment, monitoring data, dissemination activities) can be mitigated and managed, placing an emphasis on offsets, conferencing and office housekeeping. Relevant emission reduction strategies of the UN system<sup>6</sup> could be applied to reduce the operational impacts of all WEEG collaborators. Option 2 would allow DFID greater control in ensuring that these measures are embedded and monitored at all stages, whereas the partnering arrangements in Options 3 and 4 may be a restriction (although both IDRC<sup>7</sup> and Hewlett Foundation<sup>8</sup> have programmes actively addressing climate change so this is a low risk).

#### Climate and Environment Opportunities

Project C&E opportunities (all Options) are expected to be negligible (Category C) - climate and environment is not the focus of the research programme. Yet researchers will unearth C&E issues that are correlated with gender, such as water and efficient energy use in the home, crop production and adaptation to climate extremes, afforestation and forest conservation<sup>9,10</sup>. Since researchers will engage with policy makers and planners to enhance knowledge and uptake of gender sensitive policy in relation to growth, an opportunity arises to embed the principles of sustainable development into emerging WEEG policies and programmes.

It is advised that bidders address cross-cutting themes, such as climate and environment impacts of their proposed activities, and that this is considered in the evaluation criteria. For

<sup>2</sup> Mitchell, T., Tanner, T. and Lussier, K., (2007), "We know what we need!" South Asian women speak out on climate change adaptation, London : Action Aid International and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS)

<sup>3</sup> Samy, K. (2011). Women and Climate Change: An Opportunity to Address Gender Inequality. Yale Journal of International Affairs Vol 6(1): Winter 2011.

<sup>4</sup> Araujo, A. and Quesada-Aguilar, A., (2007), Gender Equality and Adaptation, USA: Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO)/IUCN  
[www.genderandenvironment.org/admin/admin\\_biblioteca/documentos/Factsheet%20Adaptation.pdf](http://www.genderandenvironment.org/admin/admin_biblioteca/documentos/Factsheet%20Adaptation.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Kollmuss, A., Lane, J. (2008) Carbon Offsetting & Air Travel, Stockholm Environment Institute Discussion Paper, Part 1: CO2-Emissions Calculations, 28 May 2008.  
[http://www.co2offsetresearch.org/PDF/SEI\\_Air\\_Travel\\_Emissions\\_Paper1\\_%20May\\_08.pdf](http://www.co2offsetresearch.org/PDF/SEI_Air_Travel_Emissions_Paper1_%20May_08.pdf)


<sup>6</sup> UNEP 2010. Moving Towards a Climate Neutral UN. The UN system's footprint and efforts to reduce it.

<sup>7</sup> IDRC Environment Theme <http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Themes/Environment/Pages/default.aspx>  
Accessed 26 February 2013

<sup>8</sup> Hewlett Foundation Environment Program, <http://www.hewlett.org/programs/environment-program> Accessed 26 February 2013.

<sup>9</sup> UNDP 2011 Gender and Environment.  
<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/fast-facts/english/FF-Gender-Environment.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> GTZ 2010 Climate change and gender: economic empowerment of women through climate mitigation and adaptation? Working Paper. <http://www.oecd.org/social/gender-development/46975138.pdf>



example, requiring a description of measures to reduce carbon emissions and how these will be monitored and reported to DFID. Carbon calculation tools could also be provided to bidders as a guide.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Using DFID's own calculator or the Carbon Trust, for example - <http://www.carbontrust.com/resources/tools/empower-savings-calculator> Accessed 26 February 2013.



# SECTION 2

## Environmental & Climate Change Risks

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Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigating Actions
Climate change environment and policy engagement.	Low	High	While climate change will not likely affect research processes, it could enlighten policy maker priorities in managing environmental (natural resource) and climate risks associated with economic growth. Capacity building workshop will address women's economic empowerment and growth in the context of low-income countries in terms of linkages between disciplines and policy priorities. This will help equip teams to effectively position WEE among differing policy priorities.